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Er. Bernard L. Planagea Information Fish & Wildlife Room 3000



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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INTERIOR ESTABLISHES SIX FEDERAL-STATE LAND AND WILDLIFE AREAS

Six new national cooperative land and wildlife management areas have been established in California, Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall announced today.

Located in various parts of the State from the Oregon to the Mexican border, the lands total about 260,000 acres. Secretary Udall said the new areas will be managed under the same principles established for the Caliente National Cooperative Land and Wildlife Management Area set up in San Luis Obispo County, California, last April. Caliente was the first Federal-State land and wildlife management area established on the National Land Reserve.

Under the Administration's program the gix new areas will be managed by the Department's Bureau of Land Management in cooperation with the Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of California. The program calls for development of wildlife, recreational, and other natural resources for benefit of the entire Nation, said Secretary Udall.

Under Secretary James K. Carr, who worked out the program details with State officials and interested members of the California Congressional delegation, said the Department has withdrawn the lands in the cooperative management areas from all applications under the nonmineral public land laws. The lands are closed to disposition under the homestead, desert land and scrip selection laws, but are open to mining, mineral leasing, grazing, and other compatible uses.

On May 11 the California withdrawals were the object of a hearing held at the request of Representative Wayne N. Aspinall, Chairman of the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee. At the hearing Congressmen Harold T. Johnson, Clem Miller, Charles S. Gubser, Harlan Hagen, and Charles M. Teague (all of California) testified on the Caliente withdrawal program pattern.

Walter T. Shannon, Director, and Ben Glading, Assistant Director, of the California Department of Fish and Game also spoke at the hearing. On May 17 the full House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs passed a resolution giving the greenlight to the proposed withdrawals.

Under Secretary Carr said the six new national cooperative land and wildlife management areas are: Mt. Dome, in Siskiyou County a few miles south of the Oregon border; Cinder Cone in Shasta and Lassen Counties; and Panoche and New Idria in San Benito and Fresno Counties, a few miles southeast of San Francisco. In addition there is Temblor on the southern border between San Luis Obispo and Kern Counties, and McCain Valley in San Diego County, a few miles north of the Mexico border.

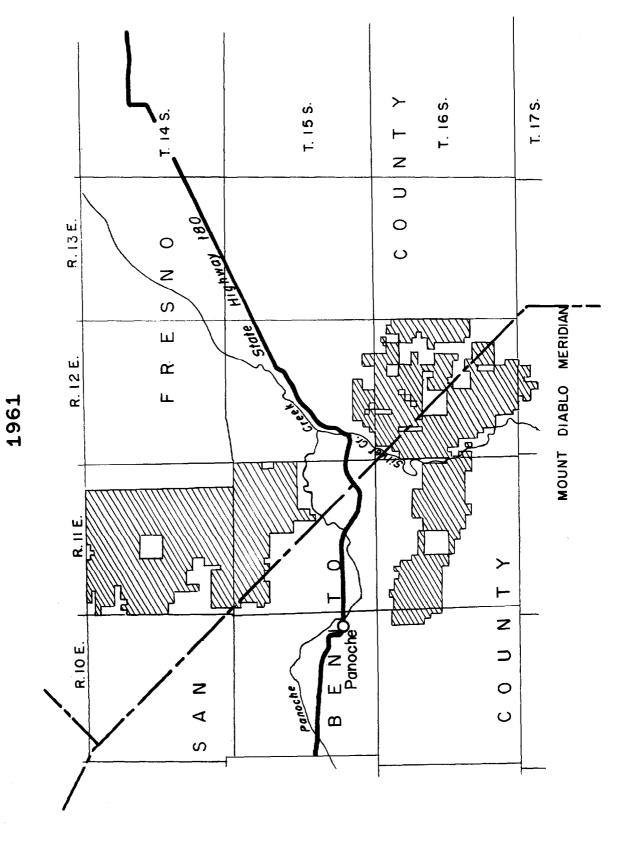
Major land features of the areas range from 6,500 foot Mt. Dome in northern California, an extinct volcano of the Cascade Range, down through Ponderosa pine and pinon-juniper forests to fine examples of southern California canyon and desert country.

There is good public access into many of the areas, said Under Secretary Carr. The Department of the Interior and the State will lay plans for additional access roads where appropriate.

A complete description of the affected lands and the terms of the withdrawal will be published in the <u>Federal Register</u>. A map of each area is attached.

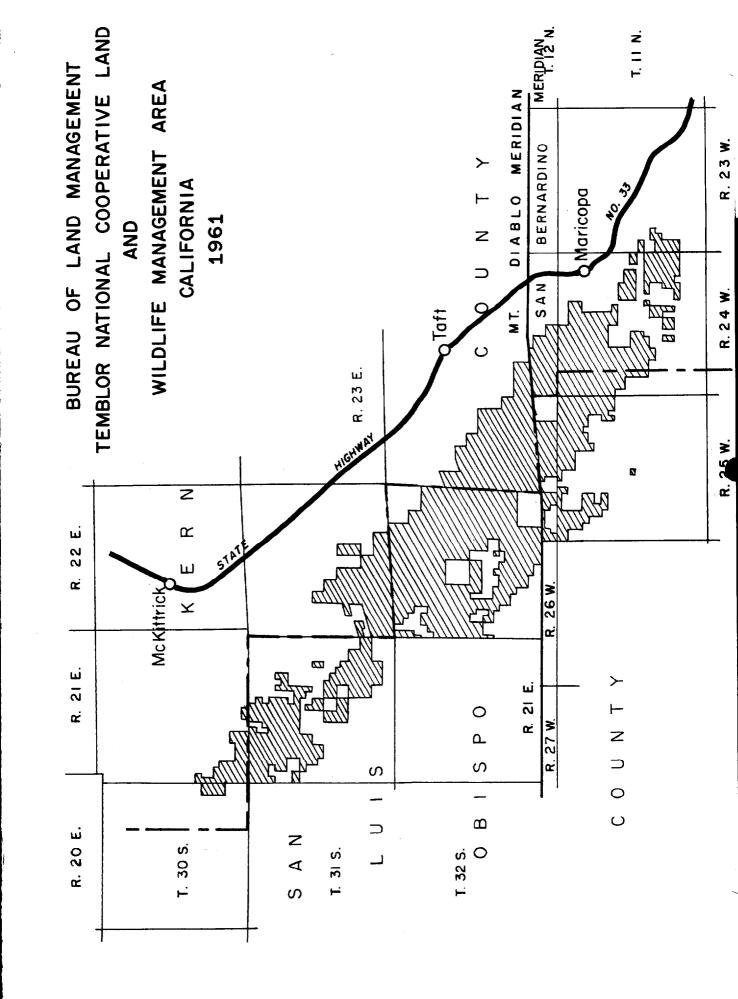
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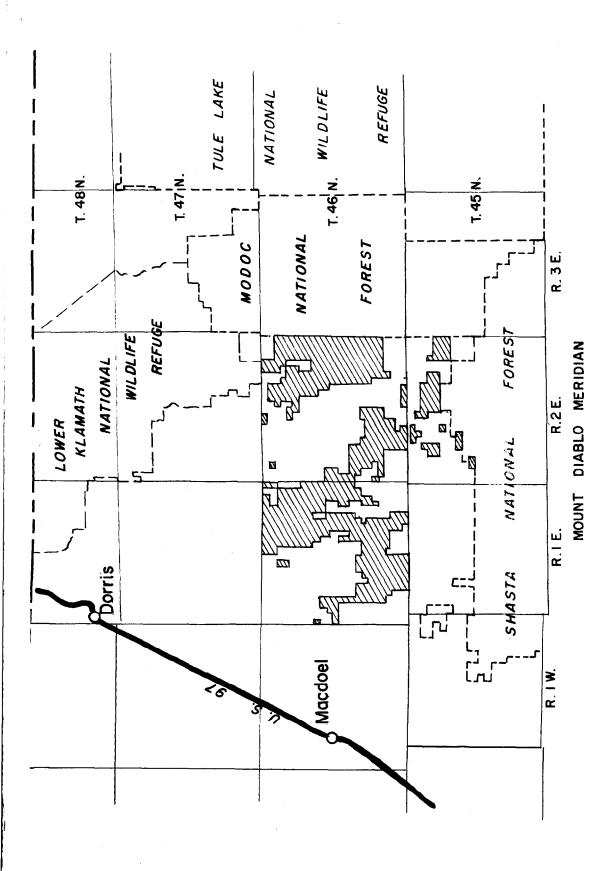
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